

REMARKS

The Examiner has rejected claims 2-3, 8-13, 19, 21-24, 26, 31-34 and 40-42 under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by Carey et al. (US 2002/00686712 A1) for the reasons cited in the office action. The USC §102(e) date of the Carey reference is April 6, 1999. Applicant has previously submitted a Declaration under 37 CFR 1.131 showing an invention date of August 3, 1998. Therefore, the Carey reference is not useable as a reference and the USC §102(e) rejections are not valid.

The Examiner has rejected claims 4-7, 15-18, 20, 25 and 27-28 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Cary reference in combination with Dent (5812947) for the reasons cited in the office action.

Since it is believed that the Cary reference is not a valid reference, applicant believe the 35 USC §103(a) rejections of claims 4-7, 15-18, 20, 25 and 27-28 are no longer valid rejections.

The Examiner has rejected claims 8, 31 and 41 under 35 USC §112 for the reasons cited in the office action.

Claims 8, 31 and 41 have been amended to overcome the 35 USC §112 rejections.

In view of the aforementioned remarks and amendments, it is believed that claims 2-29, 31-36, and 40-44 are in condition for allowance and allowance of these claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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